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From: sheri hafer [mailto:somethingsfishy@charter.net]

Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2005 8:46 PM

To: MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov

Subject: MLPAComments: MPA design

Tom Hafer owner/operator fv Kathryn H
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Dear Blue Ribbon Task Force,

We have concerns regarding the MLPA framework interpretation of MPA design. It seems the Science Advisory Team are being overly zealous in capturing as much ocean as possible in this "experiment". The SAT assumptions are based on theory and are isolated from other factors including current lack of non - fishery dependant data on abundance, larvae dispersal, life cycles, etc, current or possible fishery management, and a practical understanding of the unique weather conditions, temperature changes, currents, etc. of the Pacific Coast. Our coast is vastly different than the temperate climates of the tropics, where the MPA's were shown to have some benefit.

As quoted from scientist Alex MacCall, the current MPA's on the Pacific Coast are doing nothing. Putting in MPA's will only increase fishing pressure in small areas resulting in a Zero benefit and a waste of California's resources. There is already adequate fishery management in place. The only other nearshore fishery management tool that hasn't been used that could help more than MPA's is slot limits that protect the larger fish. The reason that MPA's have minimal affect on our California reefs is not because they are too small, it is for a few logical reasons: 1. There is so little fishing pressure to start with, especially in low population zones and with the current restricted access programs and trip limits 2. Every year we get huge swells that clean out all the kelp forest and toss every thing around so much that new fish are being brought to the reefs with every new season. 3. We have large temperature fluctuations that affect the rockfish spawning from 1 year to the next. 4. We have large amounts of mammals that eat large amounts of fish and invertebrates with no management of these populations. 5. Many of the fish (i.e. cabezon, ling cod) on the reefs are cannibalistic in that they eat their own young and or other fish. The tropics can not claim these factors.

Putting in "permanent" 20km wide, 3 miles out MPA's every 50km apart and taking all the upwellings locks you into the SAT's overly conservative plan. What happened to the process and stakeholder involvement? It will be a huge waste of California's resources and will effectively eradicate most of the consumptive fishery economics along our coast of which will allow our markets to be quickly gobbled up by Oregon/Washington and Mexico/Canada. This design will require MPA's whether they are needed or not. There is no proof that the current no-fishing zones are not adequate or even working to achieve sustainable marine ecosystems. If the SAT disagrees with that statement, let us see sound regional evidence to the contrary before allowing them to take over California's coast.

Sincerely,

Tom and Sheri Hafer